

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 567  
By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Coach Rod Delmonico and the University of Tennessee baseball team on reaching the 2001 College World Series.

WHEREAS, The excellent University of Tennessee baseball team recently completed one of their greatest seasons in the storied history of the school, finishing tied for third place in the prestigious College World Series; and

WHEREAS, This was the eighth appearance by Tennessee in the NCAA Tournament and the third appearance by the Volunteers in the College World Series; the 1951 team finished runner-up and the 1995 team, led by National Player of the Year, Todd Helton, finished third in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Despite strong competition, the Vols finished second in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division and compiled a fine 18-12 SEC record; and

WHEREAS, Led by Chris Burke, Steve Daniel and Jeff Christensen, each of whom have stolen at least twenty bases, the Volunteers lead the SEC in stolen bases and tied for third best in the nation in this important category; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee went 3-1 in their Knoxville Regional Tournament by defeating Middle Tennessee State University 2-1, Tennessee Tech University 11-0, and Number One seed Wake Forrest 6-3; and

WHEREAS, In the Super Regional Tournament, held in Kinston, North Carolina, the Big Orange Machine beat East Carolina twice, 13-10 and 6-3; and

WHEREAS, Despite an opening loss to powerful Miami, in the College World Series, Tennessee bounced back in their second game, outslugging SEC rival Georgia 19-12. Vol Kris Bennett set a College World Series record with a phenomenal six hits and matched another record with seven Runs Batted In; and

WHEREAS, In the third series game, the Volunteers easily eliminated Number Three seed Southern California, the Pac-10 champion, 10-2, with a brilliant pitching performance by Wyatt Allen, who gave up just two runs and six hits. Ryan Case hit a key three-run home run, and Jeff Christensen slammed a two-run shot and drove in four runs; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee finished this exciting series tied for third place in the College World Series; and

WHEREAS, The highly regarded Tennessee team has been ranked among college baseball's top 30 all season, including Number 8 by *College Baseball*, Number 14 by *Baseball America* and Number 16 by *ESPN/ Baseball Weekly*; and

WHEREAS, This great team had an enviable 46-20 overall record, the third most victories in school history; and

WHEREAS, This was the second straight season that the Volunteers have posted 40 or more victories; and

WHEREAS, Highly regarded Head Coach, Rod Delmonico, now in his 12<sup>th</sup> season with the Vols, and the most wins in school history, has an admirable overall record of 498 victories and 250 losses, a winning percentage of .667; and

WHEREAS, His outstanding staff included Assistant Coaches Larry Simcox, Randy Mazey, and Chance Beam; and

WHEREAS, Hard-hitting Junior second baseman Chris Burke has had a magical season, with a league leading .439 batting average, slugging percentage .834, on-base percentage .540, hits 111, runs scored 98, triples 11, and total bases 211. Chris was chosen Smith Award Finalist, *Collegiate Baseball* and *Baseball Weekly* First-Team All-American, was the unanimous choice for Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, Regular season and Tournament SEC Team member, and Knoxville Regional All-Tournament Team member. Chosen by the Houston Astros, he was the number 10 pick in the first round of the baseball draft; and

WHEREAS, Additional team honorees included Wyatt Allen, Junior pitcher, Knoxville Regional All-Tournament, Regional Most Valuable Player, *Baseball America* All-Regional Team; Kris Bennett, Senior third baseman, Knoxville Regional All-Tournament Team; Hal Bibes, Junior catcher, Academic All-Southeastern Conference; Ryan Case, Senior first baseman, Academic All-SEC; Brandon Crowe, Junior, SEC Pitcher of the Week; Javi Herrera, Freshman catcher, *Baseball Weekly* Freshman All-America, *USA Baseball* National Team invitee, Knoxville Regional All-Tournament Team; Patrick Hicklen, Freshman pitcher, Knoxville Regional All-Tournament Team; Ryan Moffett, Junior outfielder, Academic All-SEC; and Dan Wilson, Junior outfielder, Knoxville Regional All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, The additional members of the team were: Seniors, Jeff Christensen, Devon Nicholson, Justin Parker, Will Curtiss, and Joe Bertolino; Juniors, Brandon Hopkins, Brian Gates, Matt Sternberg, Adam Smith, and Stevie Daniel; and Freshmen, Hunter Rigsby, Brian St. Jean, Erik Filsinger, Jeremy Kemp, Brett Stambolian, Dusty Johnson, Beau Massey, Matt

Powell, Matt Samuels, and Dennis Gomez, each of whom made a contribution to the success of the team; and

WHEREAS, The trainer was Jeff Wood, the head manager was Joel Daurity and the manager was Jake Johnson; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize and honor Head Coach Rod Delmonico and the University of Tennessee baseball team on their highly successful season; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Head Coach Rod Delmonico and the University of Tennessee baseball team on finishing tied for third place in the College World Series and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.